

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 608

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to recognize and honor the life of Earl Webb.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly specially recognize those individuals who, through their extraordinary athletic talent, bring great honor to the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable citizen is the late Earl Webb, professional baseball player and native of White County; and

WHEREAS, nicknamed "The Earl of Dublin," Earl Webb holds the Major League Baseball Record for most doubles in a season with sixty-seven; and

WHEREAS, born in September 1897, Earl Webb quit school at age eleven to work in the coal mines of Bon Air, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, a tremendous athlete, Earl Webb pitched for the town baseball team, and in 1918, he caught the attention of a scout from the Memphis Chicks of the Southern Association; and

WHEREAS, frightened of the idea of leaving home, Earl Webb turned down a baseball contract offer by the Memphis Chicks; however, two years later, he decided to accept the offer, and he reported the following year; and

WHEREAS, in 1921, Mr. Webb started his professional baseball career as a pitcher in Clarksdale, Mississippi, and he went 12-8 his first season as a pitcher and hit 17 homeruns; and

WHEREAS, in 1922, Earl Webb pitched 25 games for Memphis before his contract was bought by the New York Giants, and on his first day in New York, Earl Webb was given a ride to the ballpark by the legendary Babe Ruth; and

WHEREAS, after being sent to the minor leagues, Earl Webb was converted to an outfielder in 1924, and he led the Eastern League with 42 doubles; the following year, Earl Webb hit .329 for the Toledo Mud Hens and was called up by the Giants late in the season; and

WHEREAS, playing for the Cubs in 1927, Earl Webb belted two homeruns on opening day, one against Grover Cleveland Alexander; and

WHEREAS, Earl Webb was sent to the minors in 1929 to the Pacific Coast League where he hit .357 with 37 home runs and 164 RBI's in 188 games; and

WHEREAS, traded to the Red Sox in 1930, Earl Webb blossomed under the coaching of Manager John Coffins; he was the Red Sox's best hitter with a .323 batting average, 16 home runs, and 30 doubles; and

WHEREAS, Earl Webb belted 67 doubles (a record which has survived 74 seasons) during the 1931 season, tying and breaking the record on September 17, 1931, his thirty-fourth birthday; and

WHEREAS, establishing one of the longest lasting records in baseball history, Earl Webb batted .306 during his estimable career; and

WHEREAS, Earl Webb played his last game of professional baseball on July 29, 1937, and after a professional baseball career which spanned sixteen years, he moved to Kentucky to work as a mine foreman and club team manager; and

WHEREAS, his professional baseball achievements aside, Earl Webb was most thankful for his loving wife and five wonderful daughters; and

WHEREAS, Earl Webb retired from mining in 1965 and moved to Jamestown, Tennessee to be closer to his wife's family, and he passed away later that year; and

WHEREAS, Iris Glebe, Earl Webb's daughter, wrote a book entitled, *The Earl of Dublin: Baseball Career of Earl Webb, Major League Record Holder*, to memorialize and honor his life of professional baseball excellence and committed community service; and

WHEREAS, Earl Webb's niece, Maxine Lohorn of Sparta, Tennessee, remembers seeing "The Earl of Dublin" play when her dad took her to see major league baseball games; and

WHEREAS, Maxine Lohorn's daughter, Brenda Cardwell, is a member of the Sparta Chamber of Commerce, and they proudly carry on their family's tradition of community and civic service; and

WHEREAS, Earl Webb epitomized the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of all true Tennesseans, and it is fitting that the members of this legislative body specially recognize and honor his life; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we recognize and honor the life of Earl Webb, reflecting upon his extraordinary baseball career and his committed life of service to the good people of the State of Tennessee.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.